

POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

35p

8-15 June 1983 Vol 2 No 23

This Week

Vic20 software

Mike Ginter looks at a range of Vic20 games including *Texas*, *Assn*, *Jumpin' Jack and Starship Blazer*. See page 14

Spectrum paint

Ian Logan presents a series of programs to fill in triangles, rectangles and circles on page 20

Dragon scroll

Peter Chase explains how to scroll and shift blocks of memory and presents a simple demonstration game where you must avoid becoming coloured blocks. See page 12

New releases

All the latest games for a host of machines including *3D Combat Zone* from Amstrad and *Vulture* from J. Morrison (Moss). See page 45

★ STAR
Muncher on
15K ZX81.
See page 10.
— GAME —

News Desk

Wealth of new software at ZX fair

THERE was plenty of interest for the 1,000 visitors to Los One's 15th ZX Fair, held last Saturday in the Alameda Pavilion.

Most of the 140 or so exhibitors were software houses, even going so far as demonstrating the strength of independent support for the Sinclair machines.

Of the companies exhibiting for the first time the Edinburgh-based Pirocks made the biggest impact with an idea

for the Spectrum and ZX81. Daker, advisers, were Elephant, Elephas, Chalk and Apoclyptic Veritas and Quest both appeared in a show for the first time with Gen Lan and The Black Hole, respectively.

Round, best known for its Commodore and Dragon material, teamed up with the ZX group with four titles for the Spectrum — 100 Minutes

Continued on page 6



96K Lynx in the high street soon!

A 96K version of the Lynx microcomputer should be on the shops at the end of this month. Computers hopes to display the new Lynx-96 in the Earl's Court Computer Fair beginning on June 26.

The enlarged Lynx will cost £299 and will include some Rom features not available on the 48K machine. It will have greater driver routines for both serial and parallel interface ports and a number of pre-programmed sound effects. In all the 96K machine will have 200 KRom compared with the Lynx-48's 100 KRom.

It will be possible to upgrade the present 48K Lynx to 96K by adding your machine back to Computers, but it will cost £100. This price includes both the Rom and Rom upgrade.

In August, Computers hopes to launch its delayed Lynx drive drives. These will be 5 1/4 inch, single-sided, double-density, 40-track, disc drives.

Continued on page 5

Classified

Computer Swap 01-930 3266

Please readers entries to buy or sell a computer. Ring 01 930 3266 and give us the details.

SPECTRUM 16 GAMES TAPES by Pearson, Hargrave, Train, Corbridge, Pearson, Bampton, Tynes. Logs are also Space Tapes 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Classified

TRAKA T-RONIC CARTS LEADS £2.95

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Classified

800 GIG. LANE CARTRIDGE LEADS £2.95

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Critical review?



42 The ORIC-1 - fighting the 16 Spectrum - is a 64K computer. It beats against the best. It's proven that the home-grown Sinclair One is second - it's merely smaller - and well up to the standard of the £200 or £400 BBC microcomputer made by Acorn. **H**

WHICH MICRO?

43 One will learn everything a modern PC that (Prest) will teach a PC out later. Dealers tell us the ORIC-1 can store entire phone programs (software) right down the phone line - normally electronic mail could come into the home by the same route - and with the addition of a tape recorder the ORIC-1 with its Modem could become a telephone answerer and message taker. **H**

YOUR COMPUTER

44 One was chosen by a 16-bit 486 computer (Spectrally perhaps) to use which totally seemed like better when performing the simplest of calculations. Two came back to beat the Spectrum by a small amount. Another problem got many examples the ORIC-1 comes into its own. ORIC final point - in ensuring the home-made units - the ORIC-1 can certainly be moved to handle. **H**

WHICH MICRO?

45 One good feature of the ORIC-1 is its 16-bit 486 computer in the 16-bit 486 computer. It shows that you are engaged in a computer world. It's worth better tested. It's a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. **H**

WHICH MICRO?

46 Instead of the Spectrum's 28 look-up table character set, the ORIC-1 has 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. **H**

WHICH MICRO?

47 A good speaker and built-in screen get the ORIC-1 into a good state. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. **H**

YOUR COMPUTER

48 The sound compares to the ORIC-1 for a computer of this price. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. **H**

POPULAR COMPUTING WEEKLY

49 One is everything you hope it would be. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. **H**

YOUR COMPUTER

44 This design coupled with the design of the ORIC-1 makes the ORIC-1 a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. **H**

YOUR COMPUTER

45 When I compared the ORIC-1 to the Spectrum's 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. **H**

WHICH MICRO?

46 The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. The ORIC-1 is a 16-bit 486 computer. It's worth better tested. **H**

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ORIC-1

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Programs should whenever possible be
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must include a stamped, addressed envelope.

Accuracy

Popular Computing Weekly cannot accept any
responsibility for any errors in programs or
articles, although we will always try our best to
make sure programs work.

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Editorial

Robotics looks like bringing the next
high technology industry to undergo a
boom. Not this month, or next month,
or even next year, but soon.

Robotics, for those who are unfamiliar
with the term, is the science of robots —
machines that can walk, talk, speak,
understand commands and otherwise
imitate human behaviour.

Robots have been popularised by
science fiction authors such as Isaac
Asimov and in films such as Star Wars
but, until recently, there has been little
sign that robots would ever become
more than fictional characters. Admittedly,
industrial robots are becoming
increasingly common, particularly in
Japan, but they are specialised
machines dedicated to particular
tasks. They do not possess the intelligence,
adaptability or mobility which
are the hallmarks of the true robot.

Now, however, companies which
have specialised in microcomputers
and other high technology areas, are
actively looking at 'home' robots. Atari
founder Nolan Bushnell has already
set up a new company — Androbot —
to develop and manufacture such
robots.

The microcomputer 'boom' will have
a long way to run, but companies such
as Sinclair might be well advised to
start working on personal robots before
they get left behind. But then, who
knows? Maybe Sinclair is already developing
a 'metal monkey' of his own.

Next Thursday

Play our Star Game and try and line up
four counters horizontally, vertically or
diagonally. Connect 4 — next week's
game for the BBC by M. Kandel.

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WINDOW ON ANOTHER WORLD

NEW RELEASES

STAR JAMMER — Moving the crowd from my home, I searched the outer reaches about the age of outer space. Through Star Jammer was the first step in the galaxy, the dazzling space odyssey made me should I could make the way through the galaxy space odyssey game making me through.

STAR KILL, Salamander Software as you can guess played in before! A combination of over 100 levels, there levels of difficulty and an optional time mode that makes each game a challenge for fans of all ages.

WRESTLING — An accurate simulation of fighting a single figure fight about wrestling action for fans of wrestling and special characters including jumps and rolls.

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Salamander Software

ZX microfair

Continued from page 1

Main Culture Clash, Collector Trooper and Spectra Smash.

Nearly all of the exhibited boards presented are titles for the Spectrum. Arco showed 100 Combat Zone, 100 Commando, Cosmic Defens and Jet 64 (a 64 column power exercise). Alteroff had The Wizard's Whorl. Loshmore displayed a new magazine, Johnny Rob and P30 showed Light Cycle.

Both EMI London Robotics and Pulse were upgrading 128 Spectrums to 48K, on the spot while PB Electronics demonstrated a 24-line port and motherboard for operating a Color Robotan Zaxxon Home Turle.

Adding some controversy to the show, Scamler and Keysoft both exhibited programs enabling back-up copies of "protected" software to be made — Zap 2 and The Key.

98K Lynx

Continued from page 1

The drive comes with its own Lynx operating system. The single disc also plus operating system and controller card will cost £145.95. 50 languages down — up to three more can be converted — will not require further controller cards and will be priced at £238.95.

Neither the present 48K machine or the new 98K and of are capable of supporting CP/M. For that the 128K Lynx is required. This machine together with a CP/M card for the dual drive is planned for the autumn, price tentatively put at around £440.

Those with either of the two smaller Lynx models will have to buy an upgrade to run CP/M.



Descent into the valley!

A 1029 has broken out its seven software companions, both selling prices called The Valley.

Magazine publisher Argus Spectra Press is claiming that a program first advertised by



Keysoft as The Valley — and now called The Swamp — is in fact a version of a game published as being from the magazine Computing Today.

The Keysoft program is definitely a version of the game published in the April 1982 issue for the Int and 128K/80.

claimed Henry Budgett, Argus' Group Software Editor. Since then Argus' software division had produced versions of the game on cassette for the Int, Vic, Apple, Atari, BBC Spectrums and Dragon machines.

Keysoft put out its program called The Valley for the 1029 in the summer of 1981 and has followed that with versions for the One 48K, Spectrum 48K, New Wave Dragon 32 and Commodore 64.

Following recent heavy advertising of its Valley Swamp program, Keysoft has been contacted by Argus who has asked for the title to be withdrawn.

Keysoft's Dean Beach who confirmed that he had returned the communications from Argus, said: "Our response is that we will continue to sell the game. It is true that our programmers took the idea for the game from the magazine, but it is entirely our own creation. We had the game available for the Vic, long before Argus even did."

"We have every intention of continuing with the program," is added.

Argus' company secretary, Mike McKenna commented:

Commodore goes for broke

The price of the Commodore 64 computer will come down substantially in July.

This will form part of a complete review of Commodore's pricing structure. The Vici will stay at its new package together with the disc recorder and software at £199.95, but the rest of the range will be re-priced.

No details of the new prices are yet available but the cost of the Commodore disc drives and Ram storage software will fall in response to the cost of the Commodore 64.

How far the 64 comes down will depend on how close to the Vici20 price the company can go without affecting sales. The Commodore 64 machine is currently not selling as well as Commodore would like at its present £169 price.

In the US, the machine sells at a special discount scheme

"We have now selected the matter to our legal advisers."

There have been two previous occasions where Argus has argued that the copyright in its Valley program has been infringed. In both cases the companies involved have agreed to pay Argus compensation.

The most recent of the two cases concerned the London-based software house Computer Rentals. The program involved, The Orb for the Spectrum, was withdrawn from sale and Computer Rentals paid Argus a "very substantial sum of money".



Commodore's secretary, off Computer Rentals said: "The Orb was created specially for us. We had never seen a copy of The Valley and, in order to Argus' satisfaction, we agreed to withdraw our title."

For 1029 (revised £199).

If the 64 comes down any where near that price it will put pressure on manufacturers like Dragon and Computers to reduce their prices further.

Electron goes bilingual

ACORN now has a version of BBC Basic running on its new Electron machine.

Still in the prototype stage, Electron Basic required about 50 modifications from the BBC version. So far there is no indication of when the Electron Basic will be available, or how much it will cost. ■ BBC Basic itself is now on sale. It is available on cassette or disc, priced at £16.95 and £19.95 respectively. A manual is also available — price £2.95. BBC Basic occupies about 11K Ram. This means that you cannot run Modes 0 to 3 on a BBC Model B with Basic. To solve this, Acorn is working on a Ram version, which is now well advanced.

DRAGON 32 OWNERS

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The Producers of TELEWRITER

TELE-TUTOR 1



SPELLING TEST

This programme is designed to give a standard oral spelling test, using the sound track of the tape recorder to dictate either single words or words and sample sentences. The response are then typed using the keyboard, which will subsequently be displayed on the screen and if required, can be kept as a permanent record using a printer.

WORD DRILL

This programme is designed to give a multiple choice vocabulary quiz. Words and their definitions are entered into the programme using the keyboard or from a previously prepared tape file. The computer will then display randomly selected definitions with a choice of eight words. The correct word must be chosen before the preset time reached zero. This programme could be used for words and definitions, a geographical quiz, chemical formulae etc.

Tele-Tutor costs £25 on cassette and is

AVAILABLE FROM DRAGON 32 DEALERS NATIONWIDE OR DIRECT FROM:

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14 TRURO ROAD, ST. AUSTELL, CORNWALL, PL25 5JE. TEL: 0726-67676.

MATHS DRILL

- This programme is designed to help children practise addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Programmed for up to 5 students
 - Answers are written as on paper
 - Division can be written showing "remainder"
 - Ten different skill levels
 - "Smiley" face and graphics used as rewards
 - Skill levels adjust to ability
 - Problems timed
 - Correct answers are displayed if error made
 - Full report at end of test

ESTIMATE

- This programme is designed to help children practise their mental arithmetic. A selection of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division is given.
- Programmed for up to 5 students
 - Five skill levels
 - Time taken to answer is recorded
 - Correct answers are displayed if error made
 - Full report at end of test

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A veiled interest

Following your editorial concerning Top 10 Charts (12-18 May edition) I really feel you are being incredibly naive in expecting anybody to compile (or believe in) a chart based on "mainframe users' actual sales figures." Can you imagine that any of the big software houses would admit that their multi-page, multi-colour advertisements had not each sold a million? Or, conversely, after 26 full-colour pages of hype that they have yet to write a program? Mainframers have a veiled interest in protecting their own image and so their figures cannot be relied upon.

For the past year or so the Buller Shop has had the machines (and really upped) task of providing the "Realist" Top 10 lists to a variety of magazines. The figures are obtained by the simple means of counting the tapes on the shelves each week. Of course our charts are not fully representative because, although we keep a large range of software for British users that anyone else, we stock only the tapes we like or that appear to have some value. We expect those that we consider to be "trash," "copy-cat" or that just do not hold our interest, even if they are nationally advertised and stocked by the chain stores.

As with the pop record industry, the most reliable way of judging sales is to arrange the charts supplied by a number of shops, even though this would mean that the magazines would have to do a little work themselves, for a charge. It would also have the beneficial effect that it might reflect as to the degree of attempted bribery, corruption and general incompetence that we find all every week. On the other hand, have honest men any magazine to who hand with programs from big, free-spending advertisers? Which magazine will put honesty and integrity before profit and accept advertising only for products which are actually available?

Ed. Howard

Buller Music Shop
330 Southdown High Road
London SW16 6HG

If you look closely at our editorial

of 12-18 May, you will see that we never expected anyone to compile (or believe in) a chart based on "mainframe users' actual sales figures." What the editorial actually said was "What is needed is an independent chart which accurately reflects the state of the market. But, mark a chart could not be compiled by any one magazine, software company or retail chain."

"Ideally, the Computer Trade Association should approach a body such as the British Market Research Bureau and ask it to compile a Top 10 chart."

Since the publication of this editorial we have been in contact with both the CTA, the BMRB and other market research organisations, with a view to compiling just such an independent chart.

Fair play!

With regard to the Softkit computer payments dispute, it should be clear to anyone with a sense of fair play that Softkit are wholly justified in demanding royalties on any commercial program which makes use of their computer. After all, Softkit are paying royalties to British Research for the use made of the Spectrum operating system by Softkit programs — aren't they?

Alan Clayton
West View
Bilsham
Northwich
Cheshire

Memory gobbler

The latest from C Whitland (*Popular Computing Weekly* Vol 2 No 18) made a valid point. However, the suggested improvement to "Blasted Games" gobbles up more memory, when Run, than the original listing. The problem memory user is the dimensioned array (30 Dim Table (25)). The original handling takes 400 bytes to write while the suggested improvement takes only 200 bytes to write — but 600 bytes to Read!

I have enclosed an alternative listing for the *Table* handling, which takes only 160

bytes to Run

```
500  H=H/256:IF
    H=0:PRINT:GOTO 550
505  IF H=0:PRINT:GOTO 550
510  V=V/256:IF
    V=0:PRINT:GOTO 550
515  V=V/256:IF
    V=0:PRINT:GOTO 550
520  H=H/256:IF
    H=0:PRINT:GOTO 550
525  H=H/256:IF
    H=0:PRINT:GOTO 550
530  H=H/256:IF
    H=0:PRINT:GOTO 550
535  H=H/256:IF
    H=0:PRINT:GOTO 550
540  H=H/256:IF
    H=0:PRINT:GOTO 550
545  H=H/256:IF
    H=0:PRINT:GOTO 550
550  END
```

E Webb
129 St Richards Rd
Dun
East CTM 8LD

Not letting on!

I have a tape that my dad bought me. The tape is called *Escape*. I found out the secret code in 10 minutes — it was the easiest game I have ever had. When I started again, I found myself — it took me 11-14 seconds to get out. I know the secret code off by heart, but I'm not telling you!

Michael Lane (10/1)
47 Westbury Drive
Mertonville
Cheshire
SK11 6LJ

The wrong use

I was disappointed to see Chris Smith's *Psychoplasia* program on the Spectrum page of your magazine (PCM, Vol 2 No 17).

I have been following the debate on uses of computers for education quite closely, and I feel that this is the wrong use for them. Any pocket calculator could do what that program does.

So I have enclosed a short program which demonstrates *Psychoplasia*'s theorem graphically, which I feel is of more educational value than the one shown.

```
10  G=0:FOR I=1 TO 100:G=
    G+1:IF G=100:PRINT:GOTO
    20
20  G=0:FOR I=1 TO 100:G=
    G+1:IF G=100:PRINT:GOTO
    20
30  G=0:FOR I=1 TO 100:G=
    G+1:IF G=100:PRINT:GOTO
    20
40  G=0:FOR I=1 TO 100:G=
    G+1:IF G=100:PRINT:GOTO
    20
50  G=0:FOR I=1 TO 100:G=
    G+1:IF G=100:PRINT:GOTO
    20
60  G=0:FOR I=1 TO 100:G=
    G+1:IF G=100:PRINT:GOTO
    20
70  G=0:FOR I=1 TO 100:G=
    G+1:IF G=100:PRINT:GOTO
    20
80  G=0:FOR I=1 TO 100:G=
    G+1:IF G=100:PRINT:GOTO
    20
90  G=0:FOR I=1 TO 100:G=
    G+1:IF G=100:PRINT:GOTO
    20
100 END
```



Jan Thomas
111 Darling Rd
Trembridge
Rus

Unnecessary change

Recently the Top 10 list for the *Vic20* has had a change of source from 'The *Vic Centre*' to *Banks & Co*. This seems to me an unnecessary and rather strange, since the range of software sold by the *Vic Centre* is the opposite to that of *Banks*. This is from personal experience in trying to find certain products.

The *Banks* software section consists of Commodore, Apple II, Amstrad, Imagen and Thorn EMI cassette and cartridge, whereas the *Vic Centre* carries all these products and many more including Lianmah, Kofel and Interscope. On many recent occasions Lianmah has occupied the top two places and more in your list (just in March five out of the 10 including 1, 2, 3), but since the change in source more of the Lianmah programs have appeared. Considering the widespread knowledge of *Good Runner*, the surprise is...

Surely it is reasonable to use a source which bases figures on a wider range of software, such as the *Vic Centre*?

D-Smith
28 Down Close
Northolt
Middle

Unfortunately, the *Vic Centre* has closed its retail outlet, hence the switch to *Banks*. However, we are actively seeking ways of making the Top 10 charts as representative as possible.

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Muncher

A new game for the IBM Z801 by B. Lancaster

This games program for the IBM Z801 is called Muncher. You control the Muncher with the cursor keys, eating the dots and dodging the two ghosts which do their utmost to eat you. This game has an added twist which makes it even difficult because you cannot go back on the trail of black squares you leave behind.

However, the ghosts leave trails of dots which may let you retrace your path, if you

are lucky and you last that long. When you are caught by the ghosts your score — the number of dots you have eaten — is given. The game starts again when any key is pressed.

Lines 10-4 set up the maze. Lines 20-4 set up the score and the positions of the ghost and the Muncher. Lines 50-75 allow the Muncher to move through the maze without eating it and to score points.

Lines 80-120 allow the first ghost to

pursue you and 130-170 do the same for the second. Lines 300-350 give the score and reset the game if a key is pressed. Lines 400 and 420 allow the game to run automatically when it is loaded, but the only works if the game is not Saved as usual. — Run 450 should be entered before recording it.

This game is challenging, but fun to play. It is quite fast even though it is in Basic and the ghosts are intelligent enough to catch you every time. ■



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First of a family!

David Kelly talks to Michael Lunch — new head of Mattel Electronics (UK)

Mattel is one of the world's bigger toy companies. Last year the company — based in Hawthorne, Los Angeles — showed a turn-over of just over \$1 billion.

Like other toy manufacturers, Mattel has had to increase the technical complexity of its products to keep pace with young consumers of ever-increasing sophistication.

In 1979 Mattel announced its first 'television' product — the Intellivision video games player system — as a direct competitor to Atari's VCS machine (launched a year earlier).

Mattel obviously feels that its push into this new area was worthwhile, because it is now the pole of launching another machine — the Aquarius family computer. The Aquarius and the Intellivision will be marketed in this country by a new division set up for the purpose called Mattel Electronics.

To head up the new company, Mattel has chosen the former managing director of consumer electronics for Texas Instruments (UK), Mike Lunch. And to help establish the Aquarius and extend the market for the Intellivision, it has given him over £5m to spend on promotion.

Mike Lunch is a punctilious 38-year-old with a charming smile. He began his career with an unusual degree — first degree in Industrial Engineering and Management. He then trained as a chemical engineer, before moving across to marketing with an electronic instruments manufacturer. Next, he became marketing manager of a company that made security systems (radio controlled door systems — just like the Matti from *C.H.I.D.S.*!) and by an act of fate, he was then made director of engineering!

Hovering on the fence!

He hovered on the fence until 1979 when he jumped in the direction of marketing again. He joined Texas Instruments to launch the TI 994A home computer.

The TI computer was one of the first home computers and, for some 18 months, it was only available in the UK in its NTSC form (the American TV system standard). This meant that the computer had to be supplied with a special TV, the whole package costing over £1,000. We did catch a considerable dis-repute by first marketing the NTSC version. As a result, when the PAL UK version appeared it was regarded as an old product and has suffered from the image ever since.

In spring 1982, Mike was promoted to take charge of the full range of TI electronic goods. The PAL version of the 994A computer arrived in July 1981, quickly followed by the 991A in November.

'Christmas '81 was really a hot market

for us and we sold out — the machine was then in competition with the Atari 400 and the 2600 — the VCS was talked about but didn't arrive.'

So TI entered 1982 with a lot of confidence and, in February, Mike was made managing director. In April, however, much of that confidence evaporated with the announcement of the Sinclair Spectrum. 'That machine dramatically reduced the price expectation of the consumer. At that stage we were at £299 and we dropped immediately to £199.' By the time the VIC had arrived and had also dropped in price, from £199 to £175.

So the 994A machine didn't sell in the sort of quantities that Texas wanted, so in the autumn we brought it down to £150 — and that worked! That £50 acted like a step function in consumer demand. All the product for the year was sold out within six weeks.

Mike still feels that the 994A machine is very under-rated. 'It had a 5-bits capability three years before the Commodore 64. It has 12-digit precision — very accurate for a home computer — and can handle 3-dimensional arrays. That is really a very high spec.'

Mike shrugs. The TI 994A is no longer his concern. As the newly appointed managing director of Mattel Electronics (UK), his job is to make sure that the new Aquarius home computer sells.

And he seems to have risen to the challenge. Last month, Sinclair cut the price of its 100K Spectrum to under £160. Mattel has responded by fixing the price of the Aquarius at £29.95 — and that is a price that may be discounted and further.

Clearly, the Spectrum-based Aquarius is a competitor for the Spectrum. One and VIC. 'Quite simply, the Aquarius will be the lowest-cost full colour home computer on the market — and what I mean by that is

16 colours + 40 x 24 character screen with high resolution graphics and a plug-in cartridge capability' says Mike.

And it does not end there. The Aquarius will be featured with a range of software titles, and add-on accessories. A mini-expander adds two extra sound channels, a pair of games controllers and allows two cartridges to be plugged in simultaneously. For example, it is possible to plug in a 19K Ram expansion memory and the ProForm spreadsheet cartridge. Built on 29K Ram. There is also an Aquarius 80-character per second 40-column thermal printer and a clock recorder.

Early next year there will be a Mini-Expander unit, allowing the memory to be expanded to 52K and ten disc drives to be connected. The disc drives — also available early in 1984 — will be 5.25in and CP/M-compatible, making the Aquarius the lowest-priced CP/M machine.

Software-oriented

Mattel, however, remains a software orientated company. 'It regards the Aquarius as a machine to run its software,' says Mike. 'One of the reasons that the Aquarius is so competitively priced is so we can sell our software — but first we must get a broad hardware base.'

As Mike says, Mattel is prepared and will develop software for any machine that has a big enough user base. The company has already announced that it will sell hardware for the Atari, IBM and Apple machines this year, and the Commodore 64 and Texas machines may follow.

Although Mattel will launch its Intel-based add-on computer keyboard — giving it an entire 29K and Basic programming — the year most eyes will surely be on the Aquarius to see if it can compete successfully with the Spectrum.

Says Mike: 'We are very serious about the product — otherwise we wouldn't have chosen the £29.95 price point.'

'The Aquarius is the first of a family of home computers from Mattel where the emphasis will be on upwards compatibility with future generation products. ■



Keep hitting the keys!

Mike Grace finds out what life is like on the other side of the Traxx

Software for the Vic is definitely getting harder. Let's start with what is (for me) an absolutely impossible game to master — *Traxx* from Lakesoft. This cassette costs £8.00, needs at least 8K expansion, and is infuriating. Why do I say that? Because I cannot do it, that's why.

The game sets up a series of grids on the screen, which you need to colour red by moving the joystick (supposedly moving a spaceship which is all the while being pursued by dogs then will destroy you if they catch you). So by moving your ship along up, along and down, turning a lot, you colour that segment of space that, I don't say so, it sounds for it gets tedious to move along too far (eventually ends with a crysis), then all your hard-earned effort at being red in that particular square is lost.

It, by some stroke of luck, you do manage to capture four corner squares then you can eat a few dogs. Instead of them eating you, and score some bonus points. Needless to say, I haven't managed this last yet. You get a variety of skill levels (31 in all) by varying the speed of play, and the number of nasty bugs chasing you.

I may have made it all sound impossibly hard — but this is not so in fact. My own children love it, as do their friends, and I find this game to be a firm favourite amongst the younger generation. I think it's a good value for money — exceptional in fact. But it is hard.

Struggling from the failure to beat *Traxx*, I turned to an adventure game called *Lar from Sock Toys* which costs £11.00 and needs 16K. This is rightly assessed, from the other adventures I've played so you are given a map of various caves. The idea is to move around the caves (lighting off various baddies along the way) until you eventually find some treasure. Having found it you must solve a few riddles to enable you to bring the treasure out again.

The game is dotted with Tolkien-esque characters (orcs, goblins, dragons etc) all wanting to do you harm of some sort or other. But, the once every major riddle which you need to acquire because you cannot get the treasure without at least five rings.

Thus, the main difference between this and other adventures is that you are really trying to find your way around a series of mazes (drawing your own map is essential) and that you don't really ever have to think too hard to solve a problem. All you have to do when faced with a baddy is choose from a selection (a menu, in fact) whether to flee, fight, pass trade, or

whatever choice you are given.

Despite the lack of original thought, I found the game pretty compulsive, but that was a few really stuporous. An example of this is the command 'help', which will tell you where you are in the maze by displaying a map of the level you are on. However, when you press it for help the map is drawn rather quickly on the screen, the symbols are not explained, and before I really had a chance to work out what it meant, the map had gone again leaving me with 17 bonus points for maps.

... spilted by the wheel of a lorry

Traxx has an exceptionally good game, quite tedious, and I can see I've got quite a while to go before I solve it. As it is for you find out more about it yourself.

But, just before I move on to the next cassette, a final few words about the presentation. The game is fairly basic when it comes to packaging (although there is an excellent sheet of instructions which explains the principles of playing helpfully to the first-time adventurer). Having a landscape view of the tunnels does help as you wander through the maze, but it also tends to make creativity an aspect of the time your journey through the endless caves are more a question of not getting lost than in working out problems or solving puzzles.

One final feature which is indispensable you can save your game on tape. This means that as you progress it is possible to save your initial wanderings and just reload, saving a lot of precious time should events cause your session to finish.

After the mind-searching problems of an adventure I shifted into another version of *Traxx*. This time from Sunsoft Electronic Services, and called *Jumpin Jack* (interesting how all the different versions of basically the same game come up with a variety of different names: see (a) *Traxx* at £7.95 (with 800 postage and packing) for the unexpanded Vic, this cassette is attractively packaged with a full-colour picture of a frog being spilted by the wheel of a lorry (in the last of four, I can assure you) and contains adequate instructions on the cassette (over).

An interesting side-note is the effort now being made by the software companies to package their products more professionally. When I started these reviews it seemed only Commodore really troubled to consider the importance of presentation but now the majority of games are arriving with more care and attention in this aspect of production.

Get back to *Jumpin Jack*. The first

on the packet tells me that the game is written entirely in fast machine code, with superb sound effects and Hi-res graphics (these are not my phrases) so that we have a game with a quality and presentation normally associated with arcade machines. Well, someone should have told them about *Frog Runner* by Asing (reviewed in *Popular Computing Weekly*, 7/10 April) which costs less and is far superior in every aspect, from the graphics and speed through to the skill required.

What *Jumpin Jack* has got is a fairly slow first stage (handy for those who need to build up their skills slowly), which is easy to master. Having measured the frog across the usual road between the traffic (not hard at all), then you wait until you hear one the legs and turtles to cross home. However, once five frogs are home (you have the customary three lives) the game moves up a notch and now there is a line of fast-moving (moving) cars to dodge (not fewer legs and turtles).

It's quite playable, but it seems a little expensive for what it offers as a competitor in the *Frogger* market.

Staying with Sunsoft for the moment another of its cassettes is *Shooting Space* for the 16K Vic. This is a real-time adventure game which can't really do adventure at all more a test of skill at moving your man about to avoid various threats.

The idea is that you are a lonely astronaut captured by a mysterious alien craft (a good bit of Hi-res graphics to describe your capture at the start of the game). For some obviously alien reason the baddies take your spaceship to bits and distribute various parts all over their own ship. They then put you in the cockpit and leave you. Your task is to find the various bits of your own craft, carry them back to the cockpit, and then reassemble them.

The only problem is that all over the ship are various alien baddies (varying in speed and Hi-res graphics) and asteroids to a mysterious alien craft, whose only goal is to seem to be to pick you up and deposit you back in the cockpit. Quite why they have the hang-up about the wreck is never revealed (alien minds are hard to





issue is replenish your stocks, but unlike Star Trek you also have to warp over to planets and land on them, as part of your mission. Whereas in Star Trek your mission is to seek out and destroy the Klingons, in Star Warp it's the baddest seas you can visit while you are exploring.

At first, I supposed I found the idea appealing (especially the fact I could stop the clock if I wanted by pressing a button) as a map of the ship to see where I was, but there seemed to be several problems when I got around to playing it.

One example was that whenever I pressed the Fire button on the joystick to destroy the enemy — nothing happened! As a consequence I was hauled back to the screen fairly annoying if you have managed to dodge about 10 aliens successfully and really seem to be getting somewhere at last and had to start all over again.

The graphics are reasonable (I especially liked my little submersible which had a cute habit of waving his arms around like mad as he ran about the ship trying to find the right party and so I said I like the concept, but I found the game impossible to play because of the fact I could not fire my laser nor could I pick up parts of the ship when I came to them (which would have been possible by pressing the key J). Whether this is just a fault in my review copy or whether a fault in my Vic I'm not sure, but anyway it detracted from the enjoyment. This game is priced at £6.95 and is a reasonable price for what it offers.

For sheer joy it's hard to beat!

Let's play with the space agent for the next decade, Star Warp it for the unperished Vic (1985) from Soft Toys and priced at £7.95. Like most other 1984 games The Last, this is exceptional value for money. The best way of describing this game is to say it is a kind of Subspace Defender and Star Trek. And the combination works exceptionally well for one has the skill and interest of Star Trek with the graphics and battle skills of Subspace Defender.

Although I've used Star Trek before, I have felt something to be missing — and now I know what it was. With Star Warp it you are the commander of a space ship (you're given the choice at the beginning of choosing one of six different types, all with varying values for price, firepower, combat, etc. which enables you to try and select a good ship) and you have to get around the galaxy investigating planets on your way. You have the virtual star

base in the battle sequences that it starts to get exciting. A ship will appear out of nowhere, displayed on the screen, and with exotic names like a Ragoon Whip Wing or an Infero Hauler Owl and you enter real time for battle. You are given only seconds to decide whether you wish to go topdown (by pressing the key T) or phasers (by pressing J) or torpedoes (by pressing H) and so on. If you don't press you suffer the consequences of enemy fire.

The scope of Star Warp is vast. There are 40 sections to the galaxy. Each section can contain anything from two to five stars and each star can have several planets for you to explore. If you survive all the hazards, you can refuel and take on new crew at the star bases dotted around and, if you come across a star gate, you can warp into another sector of space.

Star Warp it is excellent value and terrific fun. I can recommend this game for the long winter evenings, providing you like the Star Trek concept. Soft Toys seem to be giving good value for money as it went with a little less appreciation than usual that I turned to the last cassette this time around — a compendium from Soft Toys called Soft Toys 1 and really for the unperished Vic. This cassette costs £5.95 and contains seven games in all — must be good value even a some of them (as they so often are) aren't too good.

This cassette is a mix of the general type of games found on multiple game packages. First is The Deep, a simple firing game where you are a submarine lying on the sea bed firing torpedoes at passing ships above you to sink them. Not too difficult (an excellent game for the 5-10 year age group) but the graphics are really something! The submarine looks like a real submarine, the passing ships are of varying shapes and colours and when

they are hit a short display of a submarine appears briefly. The whole presentation is excellent, although the game itself somewhat limiting.

Next is Killer Part, needing 8K extra expansion, and what a game this one is — I think of all the games I've played for quite a while this one is the most enjoyable! One seventh of a cheap tape and it gives me more pure fun and enjoyment than all the cartridges and 1000 tapes I've reviewed for quite a while. Of course, I have the depth of some of the more expensive games, but for sheer joy it's hard to beat!

The essence of the game is simple (aren't the good ones always?) you have to get a little man along a road to the end. But the problem comes in that as you move him you suddenly and without warning have to take part in another game thrown in at random. This can be extremely slow, laser eyes dropping from the sky problems in fact one of an assortment of very simple and compulsive classics of the micro game stable. Needless to say, if you lose you're taken back to the start.

The rest of the tape contains a version of Master Mind called Code Breaker, Houghty and Crooked, Music Generator, Pannon, and King Judo (where you have to estimate the number of bits of corn to plant, eat or feed to the animals to ensure economic survival). This really is an excellent tape, quite a lot of thought has gone into the graphics and presentation of the individual games and it's well worth the price. In fact, Soft Toys has impressed me with its offerings, and is interesting to note that the only advertisement I've seen for its products (in Vic Computing) looked very straightforward and given no hint of the excellence of its products.

So we're finished with another review. I still cannot do more, yet it's the favourite of the bunch for my children (aged 13, nine and five). I'm finding it hard to beat, the game in the Killer Part game on Soft Toys 1, and the thought of working through 40 sectors of space in Space Warp it is formidable (thank heaven it has a save to tape facility). But, despite all that, I can't find computer games addictive, infuriating and plain simple fun. I sometimes wonder what it is about them that is so captivating, but that's another symptom of age — what we really need to do is just sit down and enjoy them. So, whatever your age out there, keep firing the torps and moving the joyrides (ouch).

Title	Platform	Price	Value (1-10)
Fire Command 42 Mount Pleasant Tisbury Wiltshire RG26 4BA	Personal Telex	£5.95	8
Subspace Royal London House 114 Chancery Lane London WC2N 4PL	Amiga, Atari Starship Empire	£7.95 (1-10) 8 £9.95 (1-10) 8	8
Soft Toys 14 Lamberton Avenue Barnstaple EX14 1AZ	The Last Star Warp it Soft Toys 1	£4.95 £7.95 £5.95	8 10 8

Speaks for itself!

Mark Martin sounds off about an illustrative program for the Vic20

Speaking of it is a quick and easy way to communicate with the user more interesting, especially in a program, like an adventure, where many comments or messages need to be printed on the screen. It takes up little memory space, just over one kilobyte, and does not take the screen so it will work on unexpanded or expanded Vic20 machines.

The program proper starts at line 60000 onwards, so it should fit in your program quite happily without interfering with other routines. However care is needed to ensure that the variables used in the routine are not repeated within the main program.

To make the routine work, assign JS

with a sentence and Gosub 60000 (lines 10 to 30 give an example of this and may be deleted if necessary). Each word must be separated by a space (not a shifted space) to make this work and punctuation must be followed by a space.

One of the major features of this routine is that a delay is sounded for each syllable. This is far simpler than most people think, if you break down a word. For example, take the word Program. It has two syllables thus: PROGRAM.

Each syllable in the word Program has one vowel within it. But, how about the word Router? This is separated as follows:

ROUTINE

The first syllable has two vowels which are joined in a group. As a general rule each syllable has a vowel or a group of vowels. By producing a beep for each vowel or group of vowels the effect of sounding out each syllable is created.

Program notes

60000-60009 SEARCH FOR FIRST WORD
60010-60019 PRINT WORD
60020-60029 PRINT WORD AND CHECK FOR VOWELS
60030-60039 PRODUCE VOWELS

Variables

MS = POSITION CURSOR AT POINT
MS = POSITION CURSOR AND CLAMPING
M = MESSAGE TO BE PRINTED
W = WORD FROM MS
C = CHARACTER FROM MS
X = NEXT CHARACTER FROM MS
S = CHARACTER FROM MS
P = LAST POSITION OF CURSOR
M1 = MORE TO BE PLAYED
G = GO TO

5 REM BY MARK MARTIN

10 K\$="THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE PROGRAM
'SPEAKING OF' FOR THE VIC"

20 GOSUB60000

30 END

60000 MS="XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX"

60010 MS=MS+1: IF MS=LEN(K\$) GOTO60030

60020 PRINT" "

60030 P\$=MID\$(K\$,MS,1): PO=P\$+1

60040 MS=MS+1

60050 PO=PO+1: G\$=MID\$(P\$,PO,1): MS=MS+G\$

60060 IF P\$=LEN(K\$)+1 THENPRINT"*****"

RETURN

60070 IF P\$=C\$ THENMS=MS+1: GOTO60030

60080 IF P\$=LEN(G\$)+1 THENG\$=G\$+C\$: GOTO60030

60090 GOTO60040

60090 PRINTM\$(P\$: PO=P\$+1: GOTO60030

60090 GOTO60040

60100 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60110 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60120 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60130 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60140 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60150 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60160 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60170 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60180 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60190 POKE36876,0: POKE36876,0

60200 RETURN

60210 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60220 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60230 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60240 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60250 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60260 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60270 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60280 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60290 PRINT" " : IF P\$=" " THEN

60300 POKE36876,1: POKE36876,0

60310 RETURN

60320 GOSUB60010

60330 FOR L=1 TO LEN(G\$)

60340 Z\$=MID\$(G\$,L,1)

60350 H\$=MID\$(G\$,L,1)

60360 IF Z\$="R" OR Z\$="B" OR Z\$="I" OR Z\$="O" OR Z\$="U" OR Z\$="Y" THENG\$=G\$+Z\$

60410

60420 PRINTM\$(G\$: TO=PO+1: Z\$=Z\$+1: PO=P\$+1

60430 NEXT

60440 POKE36876,0: POKE36876,0

60450 RETURN

60460 IF G\$="R" OR G\$="B" OR G\$="I" OR G\$="O" OR G\$="U" OR G\$="Y" THENG\$=G\$+G\$

60470 IF G\$="R" OR G\$="B" OR G\$="I" OR G\$="O" OR G\$="U" OR G\$="Y" THENG\$=G\$+G\$

60480 THENRETURN

60490 IF Z\$="R" THENH\$=H\$+1: Z\$=Z\$+1

60500 IF Z\$="B" THENH\$=H\$+1: Z\$=Z\$+1

60510 IF Z\$="I" THENH\$=H\$+1: Z\$=Z\$+1

60520 IF Z\$="O" THENH\$=H\$+1: Z\$=Z\$+1

60530 IF Z\$="U" THENH\$=H\$+1: Z\$=Z\$+1

60540 IF Z\$="Y" THENH\$=H\$+1: Z\$=Z\$+1

60550 GOTO60410

60560 FOR X=1 TO LEN(H\$)

60570 GOTO60410

60580 RETURN

60590

60600

60610

60620

60630

60640

60650

60660

60670

60680

60690

60700

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Paint it black!

Ian Logan presents a series of routines to 'paint' triangles, rectangles and circles

This article contains a series of Basic programs that explore the 'filling-in' of triangles, rectangles and circles. These programs will be of greatest interest to Spectrum owners (but, nevertheless, owners of other microcomputers should find much of interest).

The Spectrum has three commands that can be used to outline a figure:

PLOT XY — draws a point at coordinates x,y
DRAW XY — draws a line of points from the last position to a given xy coord (The Draw x,y's command) the draw command does not discount in PLOT 10 steps

CIRCLE X,Y — draws a circle with centre x,y and radius r

There are, however, no commands for 'filling-in' areas and such actions have to be programmed — either in Basic or machine code.

First the assumptions. Figure 1 shows a representative triangle. It has an origin, **StartX**, **StartY**, a height and a width. The triangle is right-angled and is formed to the right hand side of the height.



There are several ways in which all the pixels lying within the area of the triangle

can be set. The idea of considering all pixels and plotting only those that occur in the triangle is a non-starter as is the approach of drawing lines initially — very pretty but rather slow.

A better way is to construct the triangle from a series of horizontal Draw lines. The drawing of a line is reasonably fast in the Spectrum and the set of horizontal lines includes all the necessary pixels. The length of a horizontal line is given by the formula: $\text{Width} - (\text{Height} - \text{Step})$, where **Step** is the required line number with the line through the origin being **Step** zero. Figure 2 shows the stage of the construction.



The **Fill-In Triangles** program shows the fastest algorithm. The program allows for triangles to be drawn in any quadrant. Note that for the top line, a single pixel is best considered by itself — and so written all triangles are of the same colour.

It is in fact easier to fill-in rectangular areas than to fill-in triangles as the line length will be constant. Again, the origin of the rectangle is taken as **StartX**, **StartY**,

and the rectangle has both **Width** and **Height**.

The **Fill-In Rectangles** program shows the full algorithm. This time the figures come in random colours and the user is repeatedly prompted to enter the next rectangle. Care must be taken to ensure that the parameters entered are valid otherwise the program will stop (see the section on error trapping).

The filling-in of circles is more complex. The programmer has the chance to develop rather more complicated algorithms. A circle has an origin, **StartX**, **StartY** and a radius. But there are then many ways in which the area of the circle can be described.

In the accompanying algorithm the length of a line is found by using simple Pythagorean arithmetic. Then, to save the repeated evaluation of line lengths, the line from the upper semi-circle is related to the lower semi-circle. Figure 3 illustrates the algorithm.



The **Fill-In Circles** program shows the complete algorithm. In the program it is the 'square of the radius' **Rad2** that has to be available throughout. Also note the use of the expression **Step/ABS(Step)-1** which as the explanation more fully how the Spec-

```

10 REM FILLED-IN TRIANGLES
20 INPUT "Enter start x & y"; StartX, StartY
30 INPUT "Enter width and height"; Width, Height
40 LET Steps=Height
50 PLOT StartX,StartY+Steps
60 GO TO 100
70 REM The loop for the lines
80 PLOT StartX,StartY+Steps
90 DDW Width-Steps/Height+1
100 IF NOT Steps THEN STOP
110 LET Steps=Steps-1
120 GO TO 80

```

```

10 REM FILLED-IN RECTANGLES
20 INPUT "Enter start x & y"; StartX, StartY
30 INPUT "Enter width and height"; Width, Height
40 LET Steps=Height
50 PLOT StartX,StartY+Steps
60 REM The loop for the lines
70 PLOT StartX,StartY+Steps
80 DDW Width-Steps/Height+1
90 IF NOT Steps THEN STOP
100 LET Steps=Steps-1
110 GO TO 70

```

but evaluates its square roots.

Once again the user can make the figure appear in different colours, or with random noise.

Everyone who has used Plot One or Circle One Spectrum will have found that an 'error report' is given, and the program stops, whenever the edge of the figure is reached. It is, however, possible to keep this situation by altering the system variable *Err-Op* and thereby continue with the program.

The system variable *Err-Op* is the pointer to the return address (3005h) that, if

added upon, returns the interpreter to the main execution loop and produces an 'error report'. The address on the machine stack below the 3005h (ie, added later) is the address *Star-Ad* (3376h, that always leads to the next statement being considered by the operating system).

In the case of an error occurring that the user wishes to trap, then it is a straightforward matter to surround the error-giving statement with the necessary statements to change the value of *Err-Op* (*Err-Ad* needs inserting also as 'no error' has occurred). The program *Showing Err-Op*

illustrates these addresses on the machine stack.

As a suggested protocol, the program *Error Trapping* gives the necessary steps. The flag *F*, becomes set only when an 'error' has been trapped.

This article has tried to give the reader a few ideas that can be developed. The *Finite* program has been written not to develop any new material, but only to consolidate the concepts that have been mentioned. The *Finite* program is a 'fill & watch' program and I hope that you like it — please find yourself a colour tv for it! ■

```

10 REM FILLED-IN CIRCLES
20 INPUT "Enter radius (10-100)"; R
30 INPUT "Enter the radius (10-100)"; R
40 LET Steps=ABS INT Steps
50 IF NOT Steps THEN STOP
60 LET Odd=Steps+Steps
70 REM The loop for the lines
80 LET Steps=Steps-1
90 IF Steps THEN STOP
100 LET XL=EXP (1/3)*LN (R*ODD-Steps+Steps)-1
110 LET Line=XL+XL
120 LET StartL=StarX-XL
130 IF StartL<0 THEN LET Line=Line+StartL; LET StartL=0
140 REM Draw an upper half line
150 PLOT StartL,StarY+Steps; DRAW Line;S
160 REM Draw a lower half line
170 IF StartL+Steps<0 THEN GO TO 90
180 PLOT StartL,StarY-Steps; DRAW Line;S
190 GO TO 80

```

```

10 REM ERROR TRAPPING
20 POKE 30013,PEEK 30013-2
30 DRAW 0;0
40 LET F=0
50 IF PEEK 30013<255 THEN LET F=1
60 POKE 30013,255; POKE 30013,PEEK 30013+2
70 PRINT "Error trapped success-fully - and F, 'no error' and NOT F"

```

```

10 REM SHOWING ERR-OP
20 LET ERR-OP=PEEK 30013+255+PEEK 30014
30 FOR A=ERR-OP+1 TO ERR-OP-2 STEP -1
40 POINT A,PEEK A
50 NEXT A

```

```

10 REM FINALE
20 LET StarX=0;INT (RND*255)
30 LET StarY=0;INT (RND*100)
40 LET Steps=7;0;INT (RND*100)
50 LET O=StarX+0;INT (1-RND)*10
60 LET Col=INT (100*0)
70 POKE 30013,PEEK 30013-2
80 PLOT INK Col,StarX,StarY+Steps
90 LET F=0
100 IF PEEK 30013<255 THEN LET F=1
110 POKE 30013,255; POKE 30013,PEEK 30013+2
120 IF F THEN GO TO 80
130 POKE 30013,PEEK 30013-2
140 DRAW INK Col,StarX,S
150 POKE 30013,255; POKE 30013,PEEK 30013+2
160 IF Steps<1 THEN GO TO 80
170 LET Steps=Steps-1
180 GO TO 70

```


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Turning turtle . . .

Boris Allan looks at the ins and outs of turtle graphics

Turtle graphics have a long history in mathematics (in the guise of polar geometry and vector algebra), but have been developed as a programming tool and teaching aid by Seymour Papert and co-workers at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

These routines can be used by pupils to investigate non-euclidean geometry, but will probably find greatest use as the basis of systems which are rather more user-friendly. The language Logo (of increasing prominence in primary education) uses a special version of turtle graphics and can be connected to a robotic turtle — it is not difficult to use my Turtle routines as the basis for a Logo-type emulator in BBC BASIC. As the UCSD Pascal system also uses turtle graphics, but non-interactively, I have given equivalents of all the UCSD commands (plus certain others). Turtle however can be used interactively.

The "Turtle" in turtle graphics is an imaginary beastie which faces in a certain direction (Angle in the program). It has certain co-ordinates (X and Y), and draws a pen which can either be up or down (Up, Move or Draw). The Turtle starts at the centre, facing up the display screen. In program order the routines are:

- + **PROCINIT** which clears the graphics screen and the text screen
- + **PROCLG** sets the graphics foreground,

and background, colours (Pen is normally 0). The graphics screen is set to leave a space at the bottom (Mob 24), the screen is cleared (CLG), and the origin is set at the centre (MO 00).

+ **PROCLG** sets the text colours (to the reverse of the graphics colours), sets the text screen to four lines at the bottom, and clears the new text screen.

+ **PROCCOL** is a procedure which allows the user to set the colour of the Turtle's pen (0 is black, and 1 is white), though this is rarely used by the user.

+ **PROCSTART** resets the Turtle to the centre, facing upwards.

+ **PROCSTART** clears the graphics, and re-centres without affecting the text space.

+ **PROCSET** uses **PROCLG** to set the pen colour to black, clears both the graphics screen and the text screen, and re-centres.

+ **PROCDRAW** changes the pen colour from black to white (and vice versa), without changing the graphics background — this is used for drawing over previous lines.

+ **PROCROT** turns the Turtle through A degrees, where a positive value is counter-clockwise, and a negative value is clockwise, and the resulting direction (always between 0 and 360) is stored as Angle.

+ **PROCROT** turns the Turtle to that angle (again normalised by **PROANGLE**).

+ **PROROT** is an environmental enquiry which gives the user the co-ordinates and orientation of the Turtle.

+ **PROCMOVE** moves the Turtle forward by Distance in the present direction. Whether the pen draws or not is set by Style — if Style is 1 then the line is drawn, otherwise the pen is moved without drawing.

+ **PROCMOVE** is a move to a specified pair of co-ordinates, also finding the required angle.

+ **PROANGLE** takes an input and returns a value between 0 and 360.

+ **PROCSTART** clears the screen, by re-setting the cursor and clearing the screen.

The routines are designed to be used in Mode 4, so before using the routines the mode needs setting (MO), by typing in block 4 in instant mode.

It is worth experimenting with the procedures to get a feel for them. A good one to try is:

```
PROCSTART
PROCLG
PROCCOL
PROCMOVE 100,100,0
PROCMOVE 100,100,0
PROCMOVE 100,100,0
```

and various other little exercises. It is also easy to produce a procedure to draw a square:

```
DEF PROC SQUARE
  SET LOCAL I FOR I TO 4
  SET PROCMOVE 11,11,0
  SET MO 4
  SET PROCMOVE 100,100,0
```

and to produce squares of different sizes, by using different values and sums, eg:

```
DEF PROC SQUARE
  SET LOCAL I FOR I TO 4
  SET PROCMOVE 11,11,0
  SET MO 4
  SET PROCMOVE 100,100,0
```

DEF PROC SQUARE

Continued on page 27

```
1000DEF PROCCLG
1010DEF PROCCLG 14000: COLOURS=PEN
1020DEF PROC 0, 31, 30, 30000
1030DEF PROC 1: REM CLG
1040DEF PROCCLG
1050DEF PROCCLG
1060DEF PROCCLG
1070DEF PROCCLG
1080DEF PROCCLG
1090DEF PROCCLG
1100DEF PROCCLG
1110DEF PROCCLG
1120DEF PROCCLG
1130DEF PROCCLG
1140DEF PROCCLG
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1960DEF PROCCLG
1970DEF PROCCLG
1980DEF PROCCLG
1990DEF PROCCLG
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```

1510REM-----
1520DEF PROCINVERT
1530PEN=1 - PEN: BCOL 0, PEN
1540ENDPROC : REM INVERT
1550REM-----
1560REM-----
1570DEF PROCTURNT(A)
1580ANGLE=FWANGLE:ANGLE=A)
1590ENDPROC : REM TURN
1600REM-----
1610REM-----
1620DEF PROCTURNT(A)
1630ANGLE = FWANGLE:ANGLE=A)
1640ENDPROC : REM TURNT
1650REM-----
1660REM-----
1670DEF PROCLOC
1680PRINT "COORDINATES ARE 'X,Y'
      "ANGLE IS "ANGLE
1690ENDPROC : REM LOC
1700REM-----
1710REM-----
1720DEF PROCHOVE(DISTANCE,STYLE)
1730LOCAL XC,YC
1740XC=DISTANCE*SIN(RAD(ANGLE))
      YC=DISTANCE*COS(RAD(ANGLE))
1750=X+XC : Y=Y+YC
1760IF STYLE=1 THEN DRAW X,Y ELSE

```

```

      MOVE X,Y
1770ENDPROC : REM MOVE
1780REM-----
1790REM-----
1800DEF PROCHMOVETO(X,Y,STYLE)
1810LOCAL XDIF,YDIF: XDIF=X-X)
      YDIF=Y-Y)
1820IF YDIF<0 THEN FACTURNT(DEC)
      ATN(XDIF/YDIF)*180/PI:YMCY
      ) ELSE PROCTURNT(5CM-XDIF)
      #70)
1830X=X) : Y=Y)
1840IF STYLE=1 THEN DRAW X,Y ELSE
      MOVE X,Y
1850ENDPROC : REM MOVE TO
1860REM-----
1870REM-----
1880DEF FWANGLE(A)
1890IF A<0 THEN =A MOD 360 ELSE =A
      MOD 360 +360 : REM ANGLE
1900REM-----
1910REM-----
1920DEF PROCNEW
1930VDU34:CLS
1940ENDPROC : REM NEW
1950REM-----
1960REM-----

```

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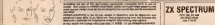
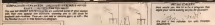
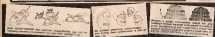
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Invaders

on Vic20

This is an Invader-type game. Full instructions are included in the program. It is too hard or too easy then the amount of time

between each jump is easily changed. This is done by changing the number in line 552 (smaller makes it harder and bigger makes it easier). The program uses 85 percent of the memory available on the standard machine and it should be a simple job to convert to pyritide.

Program notes

Lines

- 5-100 One instruction.
- 100-200 Set up game.
- 200-300 Movement of man + across to left's movement.
- 300-400 Machine.
- 400-500 Move to check destroyed.
- 500-600 Move destroyed down.
- 600-700 Randomize.
- 700-800 Add to score + place new machine on the screen.
- 800-900 Score + destroy machine.
- 900-1000 Take of the when to + when to lose out game and
- 1000-1100 Print game + print comment on score + printing score.

```

5 PRINT "P1: 0-9 0-9"
10 FOR I=0 TO 9:FOR J=0 TO 9
20 PRINT I;" ";J;" "
40 PRINT I;" ";J;" "
45 PRINT
46 PRINT
50 PRINT "CALL THE SHOOTING SHOOTING SH"
55 PRINT "OUT OF ITS SHOTPLACE MLL"
60 PRINT "FATHER,"
65 PRINT "P"
70 PRINT "SHOOT OUT FOR ITS SHOOTING SHOOTING"
75 PRINT "OUT NOT 3 TIMES FOR SHOOTING SH"
80 PRINT
85 PRINT "SHOOT IT TO THE SHOT PLACE"
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100 IF I=0 THEN GOTO 100
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970 GOTO 970
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980 GOTO 980
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990 GOTO 990
995 GOTO 995

```

Invaders
by Paul Hampson

OPEN FORUM

Store

[illegible]

This is a word game. You are given a

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You are then asked for various words according to different parts of speech.

[illegible]

You will then see the story you have created on the screen. The program forms in very minute and self-explanatory.

```

1  # Import the required modules
2  import sys
3  import os
4  import random
5  import time
6  import math
7  import numpy as np
8  import pandas as pd
9  import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
10 import seaborn as sns
11
12 # Set the random seed for reproducibility
13 random.seed(42)
14
15 # Create a sample dataset
16 data = {
17     'Category': ['A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F', 'G', 'H', 'I', 'J'],
18     'Value': [10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100],
19     'Label': ['Low', 'Medium', 'High', 'Very High', 'Extreme', 'Severe', 'Critical', 'Dangerous', 'Alarming', 'Urgent']
20 }
21
22 # Convert the dataset to a pandas DataFrame
23 df = pd.DataFrame(data)
24
25 # Print the first few rows of the dataset
26 print(df.head())
27
28 # Calculate the mean and standard deviation of the 'Value' column
29 mean_value = df['Value'].mean()
30 std_value = df['Value'].std()
31
32 # Print the mean and standard deviation
33 print("Mean Value: {}".format(mean_value))
34 print("Standard Deviation: {}".format(std_value))
35
36 # Create a histogram of the 'Value' column
37 plt.hist(df['Value'], bins=10, color='blue', edgecolor='black')
38 plt.xlabel('Value')
39 plt.ylabel('Frequency')
40 plt.title('Histogram of Value')
41 plt.show()
42
43 # Create a bar chart of the 'Value' column
44 plt.bar(df['Category'], df['Value'], color='red', edgecolor='black')
45 plt.xlabel('Category')
46 plt.ylabel('Value')
47 plt.title('Bar Chart of Value')
48 plt.show()
49
50 # Create a line plot of the 'Value' column
51 plt.plot(df['Category'], df['Value'], color='green', marker='o', linestyle='solid')
52 plt.xlabel('Category')
53 plt.ylabel('Value')
54 plt.title('Line Plot of Value')
55 plt.show()
56
57 # Create a scatter plot of the 'Value' column
58 plt.scatter(df['Category'], df['Value'], color='purple', marker='x')
59 plt.xlabel('Category')
60 plt.ylabel('Value')
61 plt.title('Scatter Plot of Value')
62 plt.show()
63
64 # Create a box plot of the 'Value' column
65 plt.boxplot(df['Value'], color='orange', whiskers='box')
66 plt.xlabel('Value')
67 plt.ylabel('Frequency')
68 plt.title('Box Plot of Value')
69 plt.show()
70
71 # Create a pie chart of the 'Value' column
72 plt.pie(df['Value'], labels=df['Label'], autopct='%1.1f%%')
73 plt.title('Pie Chart of Value')
74 plt.show()
75
76 # Create a heatmap of the 'Value' column
77 plt.heatmap(df, color='yellow', cmap=cm.viridis)
78 plt.title('Heatmap of Value')
79 plt.show()
80
81 # Create a faceted plot of the 'Value' column
82 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
83 for category in df['Category'].unique():
84     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
85     plt.hist(df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], bins=10, color='blue', edgecolor='black')
86     plt.xlabel('Value')
87     plt.ylabel('Frequency')
88     plt.title('Histogram of Value for {}'.format(category))
89     plt.show()
90
91 # Create a faceted plot of the 'Value' column
92 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
93 for category in df['Category'].unique():
94     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
95     plt.bar(df[df['Category'] == category]['Category'], df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], color='red', edgecolor='black')
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97     plt.ylabel('Value')
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99     plt.show()
100
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104     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
105     plt.plot(df[df['Category'] == category]['Category'], df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], color='green', marker='o', linestyle='solid')
106     plt.xlabel('Category')
107     plt.ylabel('Value')
108     plt.title('Line Plot of Value for {}'.format(category))
109     plt.show()
110
111 # Create a faceted plot of the 'Value' column
112 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
113 for category in df['Category'].unique():
114     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
115     plt.scatter(df[df['Category'] == category]['Category'], df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], color='purple', marker='x')
116     plt.xlabel('Category')
117     plt.ylabel('Value')
118     plt.title('Scatter Plot of Value for {}'.format(category))
119     plt.show()
120
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127     plt.ylabel('Frequency')
128     plt.title('Box Plot of Value for {}'.format(category))
129     plt.show()
130
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135     plt.pie(df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], labels=df[df['Category'] == category]['Label'], autopct='%1.1f%%')
136     plt.title('Pie Chart of Value for {}'.format(category))
137     plt.show()
138
139 # Create a faceted plot of the 'Value' column
140 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
141 for category in df['Category'].unique():
142     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
143     plt.heatmap(df[df['Category'] == category], color='yellow', cmap=cm.viridis)
144     plt.title('Heatmap of Value for {}'.format(category))
145     plt.show()
146
147 # Create a faceted plot of the 'Value' column
148 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
149 for category in df['Category'].unique():
150     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
151     plt.hist(df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], bins=10, color='blue', edgecolor='black')
152     plt.xlabel('Value')
153     plt.ylabel('Frequency')
154     plt.title('Histogram of Value for {}'.format(category))
155     plt.show()
156
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165     plt.show()
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169 for category in df['Category'].unique():
170     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
171     plt.plot(df[df['Category'] == category]['Category'], df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], color='green', marker='o', linestyle='solid')
172     plt.xlabel('Category')
173     plt.ylabel('Value')
174     plt.title('Line Plot of Value for {}'.format(category))
175     plt.show()
176
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182     plt.xlabel('Category')
183     plt.ylabel('Value')
184     plt.title('Scatter Plot of Value for {}'.format(category))
185     plt.show()
186
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193     plt.ylabel('Frequency')
194     plt.title('Box Plot of Value for {}'.format(category))
195     plt.show()
196
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198 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
199 for category in df['Category'].unique():
200     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
201     plt.pie(df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], labels=df[df['Category'] == category]['Label'], autopct='%1.1f%%')
202     plt.title('Pie Chart of Value for {}'.format(category))
203     plt.show()
204
205 # Create a faceted plot of the 'Value' column
206 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
207 for category in df['Category'].unique():
208     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
209     plt.heatmap(df[df['Category'] == category], color='yellow', cmap=cm.viridis)
210     plt.title('Heatmap of Value for {}'.format(category))
211     plt.show()
212
213 # Create a faceted plot of the 'Value' column
214 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
215 for category in df['Category'].unique():
216     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
217     plt.hist(df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], bins=10, color='blue', edgecolor='black')
218     plt.xlabel('Value')
219     plt.ylabel('Frequency')
220     plt.title('Histogram of Value for {}'.format(category))
221     plt.show()
222
223 # Create a faceted plot of the 'Value' column
224 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
225 for category in df['Category'].unique():
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227     plt.bar(df[df['Category'] == category]['Category'], df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], color='red', edgecolor='black')
228     plt.xlabel('Category')
229     plt.ylabel('Value')
230     plt.title('Bar Chart of Value for {}'.format(category))
231     plt.show()
232
233 # Create a faceted plot of the 'Value' column
234 plt.figure(figsize=(10, 10))
235 for category in df['Category'].unique():
236     plt.subplot(2, 2, 1)
237     plt.plot(df[df['Category'] == category]['Category'], df[df['Category'] == category]['Value'], color='green', marker='o', linestyle='solid')
238     plt.xlabel('Category')
239     plt.ylabel('Value')
240     plt.title('Line Plot of Value for {}'.format(category))
241     plt.show()
242
235

```

Abstract

[illegible]

2000年12月10日

Mathematics

on BAC

This program, for any BBC computer, allows the user to obtain mathematical answers for locations, self-inductance

squares, roots, squares, times, cosine and tangent.

Many interval input is made, control is transferred back to the menu. Figures are given to eight decimal places and very small or very large numbers are presented in exponential form.

Extensive use is made of the processing capability of the fleets, an excellent feature which allows command to be structured.

Possible alterations could be made to the functions calculated. For instance, there is no provision at the moment for constant coefficients etc.

[illegible]

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[illegible]

1998-1999
 1999-2000
 2000-2001

[illegible][illegible]

10. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 1039-1044.

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[illegible][illegible]

© 2004 Blackwell Publishing Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 255: 105–112

1000

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

Stock Market

on Spectrum

The program tests your skill in making

money on the Stock Market. You have three months to make your \$500 into \$100,000. Easy? It is until you start paying tax on your stocks which can be as much as 60 percent on your shares. To save the

program type GOTO 9400

If you need to know how much money you have left base Print in at% it, however you have a 48K model then change the 5000 in line 5025 to 41084

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10 GOTO 1000
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1000 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1010 GOTO 1000
1020 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1030 GOTO 1000
1040 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1050 GOTO 1000
1060 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
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1080 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
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1100 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1110 GOTO 1000
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1180 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1190 GOTO 1000
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1870 GOTO 1000
1880 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1890 GOTO 1000
1900 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1910 GOTO 1000
1920 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1930 GOTO 1000
1940 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1950 GOTO 1000
1960 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1970 GOTO 1000
1980 IF B%="D" THEN LET MONEY=MO
1990 GOTO 1000

```


Choose from the Sunshine range of Spectrum Software

Bring some Sunshine into your life

[illegible][illegible]

Aspirin
 Reported to be effective against
 myocardial infarction, deep venous
 thrombosis, and early-stage breast
 cancer.



Development of Inhibitory
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Keywords: *Self-esteem, self-concept, self-identity, self-esteem, self-concept, self-identity*

Abstract. In this paper we study the asymptotic behavior of the solutions of the Cauchy problem for the Burgers equation with discontinuous initial data. We show that the solution converges to a self-similar profile as time goes to infinity.

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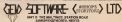
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A CERTAIN TOUCH

P. M. H. of Newcastle Team.
Added, new Newcastle, Devon writes

Q How do you incorporate data statements in a Spectrum? Also, could you please stop putting Spectrum programs under ZXII programs?

A The magazine has a certain touch when it has Cliffs Notes.

Q Data statements must be used along with Read commands — one without the other will produce an error code. The other associated command is Restore, though this is not always necessary.

Individual pieces of data must be separated by a comma, and Data statements used to range values to a string must always be an inverted comma.

The Read statement must be used to read each item of Data from the Data statement. This is why the Data statements must always be arranged after the Read command in the program. Until you get used to using them you might find it best to follow the Read command with a Data statement immediately, it certainly makes for easier editing. However, it is generally considered better to keep all the Data statements together at the end of a program. Read Data lines can be very fickle. A Read statement is always followed by a variable, in which the value of the data will be stored. If you put the wrong type of variable into the Data statement the computer will not agree to and carry on until it finds the first appropriate Data statement — it will give an error message. Try entering the

IN DATA line 5, 100
 AT PRINT 5

Now try changing Line 20 to
 IN DATA line 100, 100
 and add
 AT PRINT 10

To see how a string works enter the following

IN READ 10
 IN DATA line 5, 100
 AT PRINT 10
 IN PRINT 10

You return from using an what sort of 'touch' we had with the dream of Cliffs Notes. Could you stress the touch of gold, the touch of death or what.

HOW MANY BITES...

John Randall of Computer Central, Old Wokingham, Chertsey, writes

Q If the ZXII is to use a packed form has 16 of memory, how come that when I write it as it says 1000 bytes from? This is my recoding in one byte less than 700. Is this one byte taken up with the floating constant?

A The reason that the ZX only has 1.5K of user available RAM on the unexpanded machine, is because 1K is taken up by the system variables at the bottom of the memory, and 0.5K is used for the address. All computers need to have some space in the RAM reserved for use by the ROM.

As for the odd 1 byte missing, in fact this is the same situation that I have explained before, namely the first address used by a computer is 0 which makes the second address 1, and so on.

ATARI MAGAZINES

John Beatty of The Low, Trondheim, Strick on-Trent, writes

Q I am 12 years old, and am thinking of buying an Atari 400. I would like to know if an Atari 400 (16K) is expandable to 32K, if there is an expansion available. I would like to know how much it costs, and who I can get it from. I would also like to know if there is a magazine for the Atari, and if a cassette is necessary for most programs on the Atari.

A A 32K RAM board for the Atari 400/600 is avail-

able from the Spectrum group of shops for £75. Your second Spectrum shop is probably Computronics, 11 Market Square, Strick on-Trent.

At least two shops can claim for Atari owners, one is run from the Strick on-Trent 1-4 The Mirror, Huddersfield Road, Soling, Kent. Another can be contacted through Maples at PO Box 3, Rayleigh, Essex.

The cassette player is not absolutely necessary for the Atari, because of the number of modules that are available. However, if you have no way of storing your own programs, you are likely to find it difficult to develop your own programming skills. You will also find that you will be out of from a great many other programs that are available on cassette.

RELATIO COUPLER

N. G. Macmillan of Lockgrove Avenue, Basford, Tron, Arnhem writes

Q Could you please tell me which of the two ciphers, the BBC II and the Spectrum, would download programs from the Marston database (via a telephone) faster? Would the data or programs be fed into the RS400 socket, or the tape rather than the BBC machine?

A At the moment the Spectrum is not out on line with the Marston 800 network, though this should change quite soon. The transmission rate from the database to you is governed by British Telecom and so is a standard 1200 baud. The transmission from you to the database is at 75 baud. I presume that the delay with the Spectrum coupler is because of the necessary software that will enable the Spectrum to interpret 1200 baud, instead of its normal 1500 baud.

The Accucore coupler is a separate unit that can be RS400 interface, so at the moment it is only available on the BBC II.

Is there anything about your computer you don't understand, and which everyone else seems to take for granted? Whatever your problem PEEK it to Ian Boardman and every week he will PEEK back as many answers as he can. The address is PEEK & POKE, PCM, Hobhouse Court, 18 Whitcomb Street, London WC2E 7HF.

AT THE RACES

Mr P. H. Packer of Brentford Road, Birmingham, writes

Q I wish to place details from various race meetings into a computer in such a way that I can juggle any part that is necessary. I also want to be able to extract performance details for types of race, distance, and number of runners. Would this be possible on a ZXII with the proposed new teleprinter? If not, have you any ideas which home micro would be useful for handling this type of material. As I do not know anything about computers I would be grateful if you could give me some advice.

A What you are after is a 'real' program, some were reviewed by Tony Bridge in Popular Computing Weekly Issue 15, including Via Cable, Minicom, Comshare and Phoenix. All these are aimed at the Spectrum, but there are several 'real' type programs available for the ZXII as well.

A list will depend on what else you want to do with your computer. If you don't want to spend a lot of money, and want to use it for games as well, then a 48K Spectrum would be a good buy to me, and probably better if you are already used to Sinclair BASIC.

As for the Microdrive, I do not expect them to be available for some months yet though they should be available on a ZXII soon after being released. The problem with a ZXII and the amount of information that you want to use, is the loading time of any program or data stored on cassette tape.

I do not usually recommend a specific machine, because it depends on how much money you want to spend. However, I would suggest that you look at issue 15 and if this is the sort of programs you are after, then a Spectrum would probably be your best choice.

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NEW RELEASES

DRAGON INDEX

MAJ Software is a firm which pays specialising in titles for the Dragon 32.

Index 300 is its first release. It enables you to create an index of information in the computer which can then be retrieved by either author name or title.

The program is intended for the home user who requires an index for records, books or stamps etc.

Program: Index 300
Price: £7.95
Micro: Dragon 32
Supplier: MAJ Software
30 Pinner Road
Pinner, Middlesex UB8 3PH

LIMITED INFO



Wizards has turned an adventure game for the Dragon 32.

Called The Ring of Darkness, the game consists of several parts which are linked separately. At the opening of the game you set up your character whose attributes in terms of strength, magical ability, etc. you choose according to what you value most.

The action keys are used for movement and other commands are given as text or menu items.

The information given on the screen after a deliberately limited so that you can experience the pleasure — or frustration — of having to discover everything for yourself.

Program: The Ring of Darkness
Price: £10.95

Micro: Dragon 32
Supplier: Markonit
301 Lymington Road
Bristol
BS40 5NG 7PP

2 + 4

Numeros is the first release. It was for the Lynx — the point is that this machine has been largely ignored by the software industry so far.

Numeros is published by Camsoft which is part of Camputer, the company behind the hardware.

The game was a revenge for those like animals to teach mathematics and division. Each number is a number of which you must find a number that divides into it.

The entire suite of the tape contains: **Arithmetic** which explains the scoring system and introduces the game itself.

Program: Numeros
Price: £9.95
Micro: Lynx
Supplier: Camsoft
31A, Bridge Street
Cambridge CB2 1LW

GUIDER

Finder is a game for the Spectrum from Micro-Gem. You must guide a little man who is trapped underground, making sure he is kept away from the lurking alien.

Not that this is a totally one-sided affair — you can retaliate, and pretty viciously too, by kicking the alien over the head once they fall into a hole where you have dug.

An added feature is that you act as a slowly draining mine, so you must defend the resources properly.

Program: Finder
Price: £3.95
Micro: Spectrum
Supplier: Micro-Gem
British Control
Department
4 Royal Docks
West Greenwich
SE18 3JH

DOCTOR!

Medidata is a company whose aim is to supply user-friendly software for medical purposes.

In first package is **Cycle Fleet** and **Clifford Tracker**.

This program is designed to enable the female user to predict the various stages of her period cycle.

Program: Cycle Fleet
Price: £4.95
Micro: Spectrum 486
Supplier: Medidata
PO Box 26
London NW7 1BN

DOUBLE BILL



Jupiter Ace certainly lived for a bit but they have been completely forgotten in the software market — so few print runs have been made.

Perhaps the situation is changing, however, **Jupiter Ace** has just made new customers available.

Grandy Gobbler is a maze game featuring ghosts and power pills — and if any more included on the cassette is another game called **Shin Up the World** in which you must blow up all the land on a map of the world which is spinning past you. It must not be the title of 'most sinister game ever'.

Program: Grandy Gobbler/Wind
Up the World
Price: £3.95
Micro: Jupiter Ace (16K)
Supplier: Jupiter-Cast
Creative Building
Barnes Road
Cambridge CB2 3LZ

TRAFFIC JAM

The attack, **Artemis Trigger** has been adapted for the Vic20 under the title **Poppy**. This release has 31 levels of

play and uses the 32-bit graphics and sounds.

For those few people who have never heard of the game, the object is to guide a frog across a road avoiding the traffic which increases as the game progresses.

Program: Poppy
Price: £3.95
Micro: Vic20
Supplier: Arty 3

Artemis Trigger
Artemis Lane
Barnes
Upper Richmond
Middlesex TW20 1DP

ROUTINE

Composure is a computer which has saved a number of programs for the Dragon 32.

In latest release is a cassette — the **DASM** Assembler — which comes in a package including a manual and a quick reference card for the more experienced machine code programmer.

The package is completely compatible with Dragon Basic — enabling you to continue content from your own programs.

Program: DASM Assembler
Price: £15.95
Micro: Dragon 32
Supplier: Composure
PO Box 167
2000 Green Lane
London NW1 1TH

MATHS TEST

Geometry is a package designed to test your knowledge of the Oxford syllabus.

The program takes you through Pythagoras, symmetry, properties of circles, etc. The program also gives you the correct answers through a help function should the answers elude you.

Rose Software, who makes the cassette, also have a number of other educational programs available.

Program: Geometry
Price: £4.95
Micro: Spectrum
Supplier: Rose Software
3rd Bakers Lane
Aldford
West Midlands
B63 7LH

BRAIN DRAIN



Brain Drain is a version of the computer game Intertainment for the Commodore 64.

The game involves using your powers of reasoning to discover the correct sequence in a series of colours. At each point the computer will tell you how many of your colours are correct and how many are in the correct place.

There are three levels which give you time, five or ten minutes to guess.

Program: Brain Drain
Price: £7.95
Where: Commodore 64

Supplier: ASP Computer Services
17 Adelaide Crescent
Rye, East Sussex
BN26 3JY

MADE SIMPLE

There are a vast number of books on the Spectrum particularly on simple programming.

Yet another — Exploring Spectrum Basic — uses over 50 programs to illustrate a number of programming techniques. It has some useful tips on places to look how to make the Spectrum run faster, and on using other languages.

Book: Exploring Spectrum Basic
Price: £4.95
Where: Spectrum 486K
Supplier: J&J Electronics
14 Bonhill
High Road
London
E16 1JH
Phone 0432 6932

ON SAFARI

Spectrum Safari is a game which is claimed to be a mixture of adventure and arcade techniques.

Your aim is to cross an

island and reach a boat to escape. Along the way, you must battle with native hunters who will tell you various things including other natives.

The task is complicated by the animals you may meet along the way, all of whom tell you some kind of trick or puzzle. If you answer wrongly, one of the numbers of your team goes down.

The game features a practice screen and three skill levels.

Program: Spectrum Safari
Price: £5.95
Where: Spectrum 48K
Supplier: A.J. Electronics
194 May Lane
Widnes
Cheshire
WA9 1JH
Phone 051 62597

MONOPOLY!

Automacropol is a computer version of the famous board game of property buying and selling.

The producer of the game, Automacris, is stressing that, unlike some other versions already available, the computer plays as well and doesn't just display the board and do the banking.

Automacris is known for its Penwin adventure game and television for its 'best possible taste' offerings. Automacropol is its first major release to date. While I can't help thinking that its timing is somewhat coincidental with the general election — maybe Automacris is after the Conservative vote — maybe I'm just suffering from Penwin-induced paranoia.

Program: Automacropol
Price: £9.95
Where: Spectrum 48K
Supplier: A.J. Electronics Ltd
Parkwood
Wales PO1 3LR

HATCHED!

Valurus is described as a 'Colossal type game' for the Dragon 32 with one joystick. The valurus game has three eggs and swoop towards you while you aim try to kill them. All Hatched! when victory is impossible when the egg hatch once you have has been killed off.

Program: Valurus
Price: £6.95
Where: Dragon 32
Supplier: J. Williams (Milton)
2 Clarendon Drive
Leeds LS9 6AJ

ARMED COMBAT



A number of companies have been successful in producing a home video version of the 3D Tank Force game found in the arcade.

The first version I've seen has been issued by Arne and is called 3D Combat Zone.

The screen displays the view through your tank window whilst a meter tells you where the enemy is hidden.

High resolution is used to draw the enemy tank in 3D. The object, obviously, is to shoot the enemy, but your missile which can be seen disappearing into the distance, will be spotted and the enemy tank will try to avoid it.

The same company has issued two other games at the same time: both based on the arcade, one being Galaxians, the other Pong.

Program: 3D Combat Zone
Price: £3.95
Where: Spectrum 48K
Supplier: Arne Computing
26 James Street
Aston
North Birmingham

New Publishers is designed to let people know what software is coming up in the market. It puts into a new game to play which you can learn to play and a new and interesting way to play. It's called New Publishers. Future Computing Weekly 10, New Publishers, London EC2A 3PP.



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ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS: 1995-1996

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 283: 2689-2696.

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Variable	Unit	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Median	Q1	Q3	Mode	Skewness	Kurtosis
Age	Years	34.5	12.5	18	65	30	25	35	30	0.5	3.5
Gender	Male/Female	50/50	0	0	100	50	50	50	50	0	0
Education	Years	12.5	2.5	8	16	12	10	13	12	0.5	3.5
Income	\$/Month	1500	500	500	3000	1200	800	1800	1000	0.5	3.5
Health	Good/Bad	70/30	0	0	100	70	70	70	70	0	0
Marital	Married/Single	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Occupation	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various
Religion	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various	Various
Smoking	Yes/No	30/70	0	0	100	30	30	30	30	0	0
Drinking	Yes/No	20/80	0	0	100	20	20	20	20	0	0
Exercise	Yes/No	40/60	0	0	100	40	40	40	40	0	0
Stress	High/Low	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Depression	Yes/No	10/90	0	0	100	10	10	10	10	0	0
Loneliness	High/Low	50/50	0	0	100	50	50	50	50	0	0
Life Satisfaction	High/Low	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Usage	Yes/No	80/20	0	0	100	80	80	80	80	0	0
Healthcare Cost	\$/Year	1000	300	0	2000	500	200	800	0	0.5	3.5
Healthcare Access	Good/Bad	70/30	0	0	100	70	70	70	70	0	0
Healthcare Quality	High/Low	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Satisfaction	High/Low	50/50	0	0	100	50	50	50	50	0	0
Healthcare Trust	High/Low	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Knowledge	High/Low	70/30	0	0	100	70	70	70	70	0	0
Healthcare Behavior	Good/Bad	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Attitude	Positive/Negative	70/30	0	0	100	70	70	70	70	0	0
Healthcare Expectations	High/Low	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Needs	High/Low	50/50	0	0	100	50	50	50	50	0	0
Healthcare Resources	High/Low	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Policies	Good/Bad	70/30	0	0	100	70	70	70	70	0	0
Healthcare Laws	Good/Bad	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Ethics	High/Low	70/30	0	0	100	70	70	70	70	0	0
Healthcare Research	High/Low	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Innovation	High/Low	70/30	0	0	100	70	70	70	70	0	0
Healthcare Collaboration	High/Low	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Communication	High/Low	70/30	0	0	100	70	70	70	70	0	0
Healthcare Education	High/Low	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Training	High/Low	70/30	0	0	100	70	70	70	70	0	0
Healthcare Certification	High/Low	60/40	0	0	100	60	60	60	60	0	0
Healthcare Accreditation	High/Low	70/30	0	0	100	70	70	70	70	0	0
Healthcare Regulation											

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- LARGE SIZE MONITOR, SOUND DISPLAY
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